# SEVENTIETH ANNUAL REPORT

# MECHANICS' INSTITUTE

SAN FRANCISCO
CALIFORNIA

NINETEEN HUNDRED
TWENTY-FIVE

Seventieth Annual Report

of the

# MECHANICS' INSTITUTE

for the

Year Ending February 28, 1925

# MECHANICS' INSTITUTE OFFICERS

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Year Ending February 28, 1925

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| | |
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**Mechanics'-Mercantile Library**
FRANCIS B. GRAVES ..... Librarian



# MECHANICS' INSTITUTE

## Mechanics'-Mercantile Library and Chess Room

57 Post Street
San Francisco California

The Library now contains nearly ninety-five thousand volumes.
Special attention is given to the division of technology.
Over four hundred periodicals and newspapers are on file.
A chess and checker room is maintained where smoking is permitted.
Lecture courses are held each season.
Library open daily, 9:00 A. M. to 10:00 P. M.
Sundays and Holidays, 11:00 A. M. to 5:00 P. M.
Chess Room, daily, 9:00 A. M. to 10:00 P. M.

### TERMS OF MEMBERSHIP.

| | |
|---|---|
| Entrance Fee | $ 1.00 |
| Quarterly Dues (in advance) | 1.50 |
| Life Membership | 100.00 |

Non-residents may use the Library for one month on payment of fifty cents.

A member may introduce a friend (not a resident of the city) who will be allowed the use of the Library rooms for one month.

### LIBRARY RULES.

Members may take out two books at a time and extra books on payment of five cents each.

New fiction may be kept one week only. Other books may be kept two weeks and the time may be extended for two weeks longer by giving notice at the Library desk, or by mail or telephone (Sutter 829). A charge of two cents a day will be made on books kept over time.

Members' requests for books to be purchased will receive careful consideration.

# PRESIDENT'S REPORT

San Francisco, March 5, 1925.

*To the Members of the Mechanics' Institute*:

This year marks the passing of the seventieth anniversary of the founding of this Institute, and the story of these seventy years is, to a large extent, the history of our city of San Francisco in particular, and of the State of California in general. Founded by pioneers in industry as a center for providing information in mechanic arts, it rapidly forged ahead and within a short time it not only led in the promotion of mechanical knowledge, but it also took a leading place in the fostering of business industry which extended to all parts of the state. Its annual expositions became known the world over, and not to have visited the Mechanics' Fair was almost not to have lived. Their advertising value to the state of California, particularly in the exploitation of its natural advantages, cannot be estimated in figures. During all the years of the Institute's existence, be it said to the credit of those early pioneers who guided its destinies, that in spite of the fact that at various times its financial condition was far from satisfactory it never wavered for an instant in the continuance of the educational work which it had set out to accomplish. How well the efforts of these men were directed is best exemplified by the condition of the Institute today, the details of which will be found in the different annual reports. For the year just ended the report indicates that the circulation of library books has been somewhat less than that of last year, and that the principal loss is in the class of fiction. This is no doubt due to the fact that many circulating libraries, whose principal output is fiction, have been established in various shops in the city. The membership has likewise decreased, the number being one hundred and forty-eight less than last year. This is, no doubt, due to the same cause; it, of course, carries with it a corresponding decrease in the amount received from quarterly dues.

The receipts from the Post Street Building show an increase, as do also the various investment accounts. The expense of maintaining the Library has increased some four thousand dollars, of which a sum of nearly three thousand dollars has been needed for extra purchases of books, and for alterations incident to the installation of the new shelving and for various other betterments.



The expense of maintaining the Post Street Building was approximately the same as that of last year. An analysis of the income and operating expense accounts indicates that the income was some thirty-one thousand dollars over the expense.

In my 1924 report I noted the sale of two lots in the Peoples Homestead Tract; since then the remaining five lots have been sold for a net amount of twenty-six hundred three dollars. With the money received from the sale of the two lots last year, the records show a return of more than nineteen hundred dollars above the amount at which this property was carried on our books. Added investments were made in mortgages on San Francisco real estate, amounting to ninety-five hundred dollars, and in municipal bonds, three thousand dollars.

Due to the increase in the number of volumes housed in the library it became necessary, as I stated in my last year's report, to arrange for extra shelving on the reference floor. This shelving has been installed and a rearrangement of the location of the books on this floor has been made.

Since the last annual meeting of the members a fire occurred in one of the ground-floor stores of the building. I am pleased to report that the fire was confined to the ground-floor, and that no damage was done to the books in the library. With the insurance received the store was replaced in a condition more satisfactory to the tenant, than it had been originally. All other damage within the building was also covered.

Detailed accounts of these transactions will be found in the financial statement of the Secretary.

During the term two lecture courses were given under the auspices of the Institute—one by Professor David P. Barrows, on "Western Africa, Its Explorations and Modern Development," and the other on "Radio," by Herbert E. Metcalf, of the Magnavox Company.

I regret to announce the death on May 7th, 1924, of Mr. Frederick A. Denicke, a Trustee of the Mechanics' Institute from January 7, 1919, to the date of his death. The Board of Trustees elected Mr. Constant Meese to fill the unexpired portion of Mr. Denicke's term, and the members of the Institute at the December, 1924, meeting confirmed his election.

I desire to express appreciation of the faithful service rendered the Institute by the various members of its staff of employees, especially that of our Secertary, John H. Wood, and our Librarian, Francis B. Graves.

BYRON MAUZY, President.

# SECRETARY'S REPORT

**For the Year Ending February 28, 1925.**

San Francisco, March 5, 1925.

To the Board of Trustees of the Mechanics' Institute,
San Francisco.

Gentlemen:—

I have the honor to present herewith financial statement of the Mechanics' Institute for the year ending February 28, 1925:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| March 1, 1924, Cash on deposit in various banks | | $ 12,263.89 |
| Cash in contingent funds | | 225.00 |
| Total Cash | | $ 12,488.89 |

## RECEIPTS.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Mechanics' Institute Building—rent collections from March 1, 1924, to February 28, 1925 | | $ 67,496.50 |
| Interest, Ernest N. Atkins Memorial Fund | | 30.00 |
| Interest, James Lick Fund | | 600.00 |
| Interest, Commercial and Savings Account | | 546.41 |
| Interest, Mortgage Receivable Accounts | | 1,327.12 |
| Interest, Bonds | | 28,181.25 |
| Suspense | | 20.00 |
| Tax Suit Judgment (on account) | | 184.62 |
| Library and General Administration: | | |
| Dues | $ 22,597.00 | |
| Entrance Fees | 896.00 | |
| Life Memberships | 200.00 | |
| Books Paid For | 145.06 | |
| Fines and Extra Books | 2,848.25 | |
| | | 26,686.31 |
| Received for Investments Account: | | |
| Mortgage Paid | | 25,000.00 |
| Sale of Lots 18, 19, 20, 31, 32, Peoples' Homestead | | 2,603.10 |
| Total Cash received | | $152,675.01 |
| | | $165,164.20 |

## EXPENDITURES.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Mechanics' Institute Building — operating expenses from March 1, 1924, to February 28, 1925: | | |
| Pay Roll | $ 14,692.82 | |
| Taxes | 8,081.64 | |
| Insurance | 1,979.35 | |
| Equipment | 10.00 | |
| Heat | 2,187.64 | |
| Light and Power | 2,561.46 | |
| Water | 256.14 | |
| Window Cleaning | 420.00 | |
| Supplies | 952.85 | |
| Repairs | 228.27 | |
| General Expense | 188.13 | |
| | | $31,558.30 |
| Library and General Administration: | | |
| Books, Binding and Periodicals | $13,988.46 | |
| Furniture and Equipment | 690.71 | |
| General Expense | 2,104.85 | |
| Insurance | 835.20 | |
| Legal Expense | 250.00 | |
| Lectures | 964.38 | |
| Printing and Stationery | 255.12 | |
| Salaries | 22,930.65 | |
| Supplies | 135.21 | |
| Taxes | 43.57 | |
| Monthly Bulletin | 162.00 | |
| Rent of Library Rooms | 18,720.00 | |
| Alterations to Library Rooms | 1,454.06 | |
| | | $62,534.21 |
| Accrued Bond Interest Paid | | 14.58 |
| Taxes, Outside Lands | | 12.32 |
| Post Street Building—Cost Account | | 14,338.79 |
| Total | | $108,458.20 |
| Investments Account: | | |
| Reinvestments | $ 25,000.00 | |
| New Investments | 12,644.45 | |
| | | $ 37,644.45 |
| Cash on hand in various banks, Feb. 28, 1925 | $ 18,836.55 | |
| Cash on hand in contingent funds | 225.00 | |
| Total Cash | | $ 19,061.55 |
| | | $165,164.20 |

## SUMMARY.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Cash on hand, March 1, 1924 | | $ 12,488.89 |
| Total Receipts | $127,675.31 | |
| Total Expense | 108,458.20 | |
| Excess Receipts | | 19,217.11 |
| Received from Mortgages Receivable Account | | 25,000.00 |
| | | $ 56,706.00 |

## DISTRIBUTION.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Cash in various banks, February 28, 1925 | $ 18,836.55 | |
| Cash in contingent funds | 225.00 | |
| Total Cash | | $ 19,061.55 |
| Reinvestment of funds received from Mortgages Receivable Account | $ 25,000.00 | |
| New investments made from surplus | 12,644.45 | |
| | | 37,644.45 |
| | | $ 56,706.00 |

The net amount expended since April 18, 1906, on Books, Binding and Periodicals has been.....$203,929.37
The amount paid out for construction, equipment, etc., of the Post Street Building has been.....$369,529.21

Insurance is carried as follows:

| | |
|---|---|
| Books | $ 80,350.00 |
| Furniture | 7,500.00 |
| Post Street Building | 276,500.00 |

The Resources of the Mechanics' Institute are as follows:

Post Street lot covered by Mechanics' Institute Building.
First Mortgages for $38,000.00 on San Francisco Real Estate.
Bonds to the par value of $592,100.00, as follows:

| | |
|---|---|
| $241,000.00 | San Francisco, Cal., City Hall 5%. |
| 3,100.00 | San Francisco, Cal., Municipal Railway 5%. |
| 4,000.00 | San Francisco, Cal., Water 4½%. |
| 2,000.00 | San Francisco, Cal., Fire Protection 5%. |
| 29,000.00 | San Francisco, Cal., Golden Gate Park 3½%. |
| 5,000.00 | Berkeley, Cal., School District 5%. |
| 7,000.00 | Sacramento, Cal., New Levee 4½%. |
| 4,000.00 | Sacramento, Cal., School District 4½%. |
| 8,000.00 | Sacramento, Cal., High School District 4½%. |
| 3,000.00 | Richmond, Cal., Municipal Harbor Improvement 6%. |
| 1,000.00 | Richmond, Cal., School District 4½%. |
| 5,000.00 | Richmond, Cal., School District 5%. |
| 5,000.00 | Richmond, Cal., School District 5½%. |
| 7,000.00 | Oakland, Cal., School District 5%. |
| 2,500.00 | Oakland, Cal., Municipal Improvement 5½%. |
| 3,000.00 | Pittsburg, Cal., Municipal Improvement 5%. |
| 4,000.00 | Salinas, Cal., Union High School District 5%. |
| 5,000.00 | San Luis Obispo, Cal., School District 6%. |
| 5,000.00 | Santa Barbara, Cal., Municipal Improvement 5%. |
| 10,000.00 | Santa Rosa, Cal., Union High School District 5%. |
| 10,000.00 | Stockton, Cal., School District 5%. |
| 10,000.00 | Marin Municipal Water District 5%. |
| 5,000.00 | Washington Union High School District 5%. |
| 5,000.00 | Petaluma, Cal., City High School District 6%. |
| 5,000.00 | San Jose, Cal., Municipal Improvement 5%. |
| 25,000.00 | Butte County, Cal., Highway 5%. |
| 20,000.00 | Fresno County, Cal., 5%. |
| 5,000.00 | Merced County, Cal., 5%. |
| 7,000.00 | Sonoma County, Cal., 5%. |
| 5,000.00 | California State Highway 4½%. |
| 5,000.00 | California University State Building 4½%. |
| 10,000.00 | United States Liberty 1st 4¼%. |
| 81,500.00 | United States Liberty 2nd 4¼%. |
| 15,000.00 | United States Liberty 3rd 4¼%. |
| 30,000.00 | United States Liberty 4th 4¼%. |

Cash in various banks, $19,061.55.
Books, Furniture and Equipment of the Library.

Respectfully submitted,
JOHN H. WOOD, Secretary.



# LIBRARIAN'S REPORT

San Francisco, March 5, 1925.

To the President and Board of Trustees, Mechanics' Institute.

Gentlemen: I herewith submit the seventieth annual report of the library for the year ending February 28, 1925.

## Membership.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| March 1, 1924 | | | 5,008 |
| Added—Life | 1 | | |
| Subscribing | 879 | | |
| Reinstated | 3 | 883 | |
| Withdrawn—Life | 28 | | |
| Subscribing | 683 | | |
| Dropped | 320 | 1,031 | |
| Membership February 28, 1925 | | | 4,860 |

During the year sixty-six subscribing members who had paid continuously for 30 years or more were granted life memberships.

The membership is divided as follows:

| | |
|---|---|
| Honorary | 3 |
| Life | 687 |
| Subscribing | 4,170 |
| | 4,860 |

## Book Accessions.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Number of volumes listed March 1, 1924 | | | 91,433 |
| Added by purchase | 3,482 | | |
| Added by binding | 477 | | |
| Added by gift | 293 | 4,252 | |
| Less lost and paid for | 80 | | |
| Discarded and lost | 108 | | |
| Donated to Institutions | 505 | 693 | |
| Net gain | | | 3,559 |
| Number of volumes listed February 28, 1925 | | | 94,992 |

## Binding.

In addition to the 477 volumes noted under books added, 1424 miscellaneous volumes were rebound at the bindery and 6,355 were repaired in the library.

## Gifts.

3,609 items, consisting of bound volumes, pamphlets, serials and newspapers, were presented to the library during the year.

### Accessions by Classes.

| | Purchased | Cost | Bound | Cost | Gifts | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| General works | 50 | $ 184.46 | 105 | $ 295.05 | 15 | 170 |
| Philosophy | 73 | 149.18 | 5 | 10.20 | 2 | 80 |
| Religion | 40 | 94.57 | 1 | 2.00 | 2 | 43 |
| Sociology | 207 | 641.00 | 42 | 93.80 | 172 | 421 |
| Philology | 3 | 4.72 | ... | ..... | 1 | 4 |
| Science | 171 | 653.30 | 65 | 138.05 | 13 | 249 |
| Useful Arts | 290 | 1,241.28 | 178 | 421.25 | 27 | 495 |
| Fine Arts | 163 | 716.76 | 48 | 115.50 | 7 | 218 |
| Literature | 265 | 500.19 | 7 | 14.20 | 7 | 279 |
| Foreign Literature | 21 | 15.10 | 5 | 11.00 | 23 | 49 |
| Travel | 169 | 574.96 | 8 | 16.60 | 3 | 180 |
| Biography | 212 | 660.94 | 1 | 2.00 | 9 | 222 |
| History | 123 | 341.51 | 12 | 24.60 | 5 | 140 |
| Fiction and Children's books | 1,695 | 2,789.38 | ... | ..... | 7 | 1,702 |
| | 3,482 | $8,567.35 | 477 | $1,144.25 | 293 | 4,252 |

### Circulation.

There were issued for home use 169,631 volumes, an average of 14,136 volumes per month.

### Table of Circulation Statistics.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| General works | 92 | Literature | 9,153 |
| Philosophy | 2,578 | Foreign literature | 2,428 |
| Religion | 1,134 | Travel | 6,031 |
| Sociology | 3,715 | Biography | 5,306 |
| Philology | 41 | History | 3,243 |
| Science | 2,689 | Fiction | 117,308 |
| Useful arts | 6,642 | Children's books | 2,093 |
| Fine arts | 3,833 | Periodicals | 2,653 |
| Music | 692 | | 169,631 |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Fiction | 117,308 | volumes, | 69.16 per cent. |
| Children's books | 2,093 | " | 1.23 " " |
| Non-fiction | 50,230 | " | 29.61 " " |

Respectfully submitted,

FRANCIS B. GRAVES, Librarian.



## APPENDIX.

| Year Ending Feb. 28 | Membership Subscribing | Life and Honorary | Total | Volumes in Library | Circulation |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1925 | 4,170 | 690 | 4,860 | 94,992 | 169,631 |
| 1924 | 4,356 | 652 | 5,008 | 91,433 | 172,712 |
| 1923 | 4,317 | 657 | 4,974 | 87,855 | 172,902 |
| 1922 | 4,160 | 646 | 4,806 | 84,056 | 175,502 |
| 1921 | 3,842 | 650 | 4,492 | 80,776 | 150,376 |
| 1920 | 3,408 | 649 | 4,057 | 77,140 | 128,480 |
| 1919 | 2,994 | 653 | 3,647 | 73,128 | 101,728 |
| 1918 | 3,135 | 590 | 3,725 | 70,055 | 118,159 |
| 1917 | 3,144 | 598 | 3,742 | 65,875 | 132,721 |
| 1916 | 2,982 | 617 | 3,599 | 63,672 | 127.866 |
| 1915 | 2,862 | 626 | 3,488 | 56,740 | 131,687 |
| 1914 | 2,709 | 632 | 3,341 | 50,776 | 125,650 |
| 1913 | 2,855 | 643 | 3,498 | 44,527 | 118,998 |
| 1912 | 2,660 | 644 | 3,304 | 39,266 | 110,194 |
| 1911 | 2,385 | 651 | 3,036 | 35,392 | 88,753 |
| 1910 | 1,717 | 645 | 2,362 | 32,186 | 71,741 |
| 1909 | 2,034 | 646 | 2,680 | 28,324 | 83,042 |
| 1908 | 2,120 | 643 | 2,763 | 24,179 | ..... |
| 1907 | 2,726 | 651 | 3,377 | 17,850 | ..... |
| April 18, 1906 | .... | ... | 4,150 | ..... | ..... |

## MECHANICS' INSTITUTE PUBLICATIONS.

### In Print.

Annual Reports, 1907 to date.

List of books on architecture. August, 1913.

List of books on building and building materials. December, 1913.

List of books on electrical engineering. June, 1916.

List of books on petroleum. January, 1917.

List of books on aeronautics and military and naval engineering. January, 1918.

List of books added during 1914-1924.